

Rhode Island Department of Elderly Affairs

Home and Community Care

Advisory Committee Meeting

February 28, 2006

Attendance: Liz Morancy, Chair

Paulla Lipsey, DEA

Michelle Szylin, DEA

Donna M. Cone, Ph.D, DEA

Paula Parker, DEA

Jean Anderson, VNS of Newport and Bristol Counties

Dottie Santagata, RIADSA

Jay Burdick, Diocese of Providence

Richard Yacino, Department of Health

Maureen Maigret, LTCCC

Christian Stephens, NRI CS/Elder Case Management Agencies

Alan Tavares, RI Partnership for Home Care

Karen Lavoie, Student Intern

Karen Beauchesne, VNA of Care New England

Meeting was called to order by Chair Liz Morancy at 10:15 am.

Review of Minutes of Last Meeting

Mr. Tavares inquired if the information on the budget that was requested at the last meeting was reflected in the minutes. Dr. Cone

stated the information that was requested would be handed out at today's meeting for discussion.

Chair Morancy asked for other comments or questions. Jean Anderson made a motion to accept the minutes, Alan Tavares seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DEA Program Updates

Mrs. Lipsey suggested that everyone take a new chart for the two assisted living waivers and the SSI program as well as a "Frequently asked Questions" document which addresses common questions pertaining to Home and Community Care Programs.

Mr. Yacino will update the assisted living facility list for DEA to advise them of facility closings or changes in administrators. Mrs. Maigret states she also puts that information on her website but will rethink this as the information changes so frequently. Mr. Yacino will add anyone to his e-mail list who would like the information sent to them.

Distribution of Revised H&CC Rules

Dr. Cone handed out the Home and Community Care Rules and Regulations as promised at the last meeting.

DEA Budget Presentation

Dr. Cone handed out the DEA budget packet that was presented to the Legislators at the House Finance hearing and will be handed out at the Senate. Mrs. Maigret questioned what the definition of Units for Adult day care, Units of Home care and Community Services. Dr. Cone described a unit of day care as days per week, a unit of home care as Hours per week and community services as including minor modifications.

Ms. Santagata expressed concern that the process for approving Co-Pay applications is approximately four weeks. She feels if the process was quicker it would produce higher utilization and expenses therefore showing the need for service. She also thought that Adult Day Services did not need approval of requests for service prior to starting service. Mrs. Lipsey said that the agencies still need to get approval first because DEA will need to add the requests to the budget forecast report in order to keep track of expenditures. Ms. Santagata was concerned about approvals taking four (4) weeks or more. Mrs. Lipsey said she would check again, but the response time was more like 2-3 weeks.

Mr. Tavares questioned whether the \$750,000 grants were cut. Dr. Cone stated that those are Legislative grants and 25% has been cut. She also stated that there is a special hearing just for those grants.

A question was raised as to how the assisted living waiver went from 88 people with a cost of \$168,000. 00 to a projection of 154 people with a cost of approximately \$900.000.00. Mrs. Lipsey explained that the first year of the waiver expansion people did not begin to come onto the program until the last 2-3 months of the fiscal year, thereby incurring lower costs. Since July 1, 2005, the number of persons on this waiver has risen to 130 but these people are on the waiver for longer periods of the year, thereby increasing the costs.

Mrs. Lipsey further explained that the Community Waiver provides services on a first come first serve basis. She explained that if a person is eligible for home care and desires home care, they are put onto the waiver as a home care recipient. If the next two people calling request assisted living and are eligible, they access assisted living. Since these two components are part of the same waiver, there is no restricted access to either service unless there are no placements available in assisted living or no home care agency that can provide service that the person may choose.

Mrs. Maigret asked if there was a Cap on the Waiver. Mrs. Lipsey states there is a cap on the number of people that can be served and she would find out the exact amount for her and report at the next meeting.

Mrs. Maigret questioned if the two assisted living waivers could be

combined. They cannot unless legislative changes are made as well as changes to the waiver request. The waiver renewal is being developed at this time by DHS and DEA.

Mrs. Lipsey noted that Respite will be service added to the waiver at this next renewal. Mr. Burdick indicated there are some people who are on waiver who receive Respite Services and they are working on estimating the units of care.

Chair Morancy asked the Advisory Committee if she could be the representative for this committee when testifying so she could have their positions put on record. It was the consensus that she could. Maureen Maigret asked that Chair Morancy make note of when she testifies on HCC issues and she said she would.

The Senate hearings will be March 9th at 2:30 in room 211.

Continuous Quality Assurance and Improvement

Dr. Cone discussed the Quality Improvement (QI) piece going into the waiver renewal. One of the requirements is to have a committee to take a look at the process we have in place for QI. Dr. Cone proposes that this team review, on a quarterly basis, results of a survey the HCC team completes which will address Response Time, Services and Safety. No specific client information will be used and individual agencies will not be identified in the materials presented to

this committee. The date to begin this process may be in June 2006.

Chair Morancy presented this to the Advisory Committee and they agreed, however, they felt it best that DEA review their findings with the case management agencies prior to the review by this Committee.

It was also suggested that this Committee review this process before it takes place. Dr. Cone stated that this is the intent.

Mr. Stephens had concerns about the wording “care plan” as it pertains to the case managers. He stated that the case managers are not clinical case managers and really do not do comprehensive care planning but they act more as brokers or advocates and perhaps the wording “service plan” better suits what is actually being done. Mrs. Lipsey stated that the waiver document specifically requires the development and monitoring of a “care plan or a plan of care.” We must be very careful not to change the definition of the service that is provided since the case managers are receiving \$60.00 per hour for case management. We must be vigilant that the required service is in fact being provided as needed.

Choices Project

Mr. Tavares described the work that has been done with the Choices Project.

There is a United Way Grant to hire a staff person to collect data. The goal is to increase the amount of money spent on home care services verses institutional care. RI is the 7th lowest state in the country spending dollars on home and community based services.

Legislative Updates

Ms. Parker gave a brief synopsis of the bills DEA is tracking.

- Protective Services Statute-proposing to add self-neglect to this statute.**
- Independent transportation.**

Mrs. Maigret will e-mail her legislative tracker to those who wish to have it. A few highlights are:

- Increase SSI payment to those in assisted living by \$20.00 to off set the cost of prescriptions precipitated by Medicare Part D and change the minimum amount to keep for expenses.**
- Fund the additional slots for the RIMFC Waiver.**
- Prescription assistance and myriad of issues regarding Medicare Part D.**
- Expand formulary for RIPAE.**

Old Business

No old business to address.

New Business

Meeting time will be kept at 9:00 am.